

VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: LITTLE BLUE HERON Florida caerulea 2. Number: 1
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

3. Location: GRAN LAKES, Pueblo Co., Colorado

4. Date(s): August 1, 1971 5. Time bird seen: 1:00pm to 1:30pm

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field):

I observed a small heron with three great blues. This heron was dark gray on wings and its back. It was a reddish brown from its head to its breast including its neck. The bill was a light gray with black tip. The bird had dark legs. The bird faced the opposite direction so, I couldn't see the breast very well. But the breast wasn't white.

7. Description of voice, if heard: none.

8. Description of behavior: Looked like it was resting. Not active.

9. Habitat--general: Lake shore near cattail marsh in mudflat.
specific:

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:
Louisiana heron--no white on neck or under parts.

11. Distance (how measured?): 150 yds. guesstimate!

12. Optical equipment: 7-35 binoculars---20-45 spotting scope

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer):

good light-clear sky-the sun was in back of me
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

The bird was a lifer then
15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare?

It was the first area record and I had worked on our area records.
16. Other observers: none.

17. Did others agree with your identification? Dave Griffiths and I discussed it and he agreed.

18. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none

19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: Field Guide to Western Birds and Birds of North America
were used in the field and my notes were used in writing it up now.

20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:

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Signature VAN A. Truan
Date Prepared: December 19, 1972 City and State: Pueblo, Colorado